



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**For Meeting Date: October 14, 2010**

### **Agenda Item No. 12: Presentation of 2010 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Eight Surface Mining Operations for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.**

**INTRODUCTION:** The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-two (42) individual surface mining operations, including operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), nine (9) San Francisco Bay marine dredging operations, and seven (7) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for eight (8) surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The SMGB has assumed certain administrative obligations and responsibilities as the SMARA lead agency for the County of El Dorado and the County of Yuba. Public Resources Code Section 2774(b) states:

*"The lead agency shall conduct an inspection of a surface mining operation within six months of receipt by the lead agency of the surface mining operation's report submitted pursuant to Section 2207, solely to determine whether the surface mining operation is in compliance with this chapter. In no event shall a lead agency inspect a surface mining operation less than once in any calendar year. The lead agency may cause an inspection to be conducted by a state-registered geologist, state-registered civil engineer, state-licensed landscape architect, or state-registered forester, who is experienced in land reclamation and who has not been employed by a surface mining operation within the jurisdiction of the lead agency in any capacity during the previous 12 months. All inspections shall be conducted using a form developed by the department and approved by the board. The operator shall be solely responsible for the reasonable cost of the inspection. The lead agency shall notify the director within 30 days of the date of completion of the inspection that the inspection has been conducted. The notice shall contain a statement regarding the surface mining operation's compliance with this chapter, shall include a copy of the completed inspection form, and shall specify which aspects of the surface mining operations, if any, are inconsistent with this chapter. If the surface mining operation has a review of its reclamation plan, financial assurances, or an interim management plan pending under subdivision (b), (c), (d), or (h) of Section 2770, or an appeal pending before the board or lead agency governing body under subdivision (e) or (h) of Section 2770, the notice shall so indicate.*

*The lead agency shall forward to the operator a copy of the notice, a copy of the completed inspection form, and any supporting documentation, including, but not limited to, any inspection report prepared by the geologist, civil engineer, landscape architect, or forester."*



**Executive Officer's Report**

**MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:**

The 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's

October 14, 2010, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration by the SMGB are as follows:

- Somerset Sand Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0009), County of El Dorado.
- Lawyer Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0010), County of El Dorado.
- Snows Road Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0012), County of El Dorado.
- Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0015), County of El Dorado.
- Teichert Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006), County of Yuba.
- Dantoni Pit (CA Mine ID #91-58-0011), County of Yuba.
- Teichert Marysville Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0019), County of Yuba.
- Simpson Lane Project (CA Mine ID #91-58-0025), County of Yuba.

A summary of violations, corrective measures and recommendations per surface mining operation is presented below.

**Somerset Sand Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0009), County of El Dorado:**

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 30, 2010.

The following recommendations are offered:

- It is recommended that the operator provide a summary of revegetation test plot findings to the SMGB for review in order to determine if further test plot activities should be conducted.
- The operator should submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR 3804(c).

**Lawyer Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0010), County of El Dorado:**

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 22, 2010.

It is recommended that the operator submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR 3804(c).

**Snows Road Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0012), County of El Dorado:**

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 22, 2010.

It is recommended that the operator either 1) request renewal of the recently expired IMP by the SMGB, 2) bring the site back to an active operational status by re-establishing production, or 3) commence reclamation in accordance with the approved reclamation plan for the site.

Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0015), County of El Dorado:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on September 30, 2010. The following corrective measures were noted at time of inspection:

- Additional rock should be placed on existing check dams within the drainage ditch along the southern edge of the western fill slope. In addition, at least two additional check dams should be installed in the southernmost portion of the drainage ditch in order to slow future flow velocities.
- Portions of the existing silt fencing along the toe of the southern and western fill slopes are noted to be in need of maintenance in order to remain effective during future wet seasons.

The following recommendations are offered:

- The operator should provide a revised financial assurance cost estimate for the site per CCR Section 3804(c).
- Future mining operation annual reports should be corrected to accurately report approximate disturbed acreage for the site.

Teichert Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 29, 2010.

The following recommendation is offered:

- The operator should submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per CCR Section 3804(c).

Dantoni Pit (CA Mine ID #91-58-0011), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on August 25, 2010.

It is recommended that the operator submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR 3804(c).

Teichert Marysville Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0019), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 29, 2010.

Simpson Lane Project (CA Mine ID #91-58-0025), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 29, 2010.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the eight 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained therein to their respective local lead agency and each mine operator.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

To accept eight 2010 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

*Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the eight 2010 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings to the respective local lead agencies and each mine operator. These surface mining operations are the Somerset Sand Mine, Lawyer Pit, Snows Road Quarry, Marin Quarry, Teichert Hallwood Plant, Dantoni Pit, Teichert Marysville Plant and Simpson Lane Project.*

Respectfully submitted:

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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer